



# Australian Local Government Women's Association Inc

National Board Founded at Canberra, 1951  
ABN 58853 856 904 Inc A0020253H

## Welcome to the inaugural From the ALGWA Board, a summary of the last National Executive meeting held on 16 June 2013

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Kathy Bensted spoke on her recent attendance at the LGMA Conference held in Hobart where she officially announced our partnership with LGMA in the 5050Vision – Councils for Gender Equity Program and spoke about gender equity and the benefits to local government.

She also gave an update on the Program, which is being administered by the Local Government Association of Queensland. A national steering committee has been meeting with representatives from every State LGA, and includes the President of ALGA, Mayor Felicity Ann Lewis, past ALGA President Cr Paul Bell and the Hon Margaret Reynolds. The full committee can be viewed on the 5050 website at [www.5050vision.com.au](http://www.5050vision.com.au).

A new 5050Vision Councils for Gender Equity brochure has been produced (attached) and e-brochures were sent to all 588 Australian Councils.

Awards have been issued to:

- Holroyd City Council, NSW: Silver Award
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Qld: Bronze Award
- Shoalhaven City Council, Qld: Bronze Award
- City of Darwin, NT: Silver Award
- Whitsunday Regional Council, Qld: Bronze Award
- City of Mandurah, WA: Bronze Award
- Devonport City Council, Tas: Silver Award

Four Councils are currently being assessed and another 24 are preparing applications.

The National Gender Equity Conference will be at the Hilton Hotel, Brisbane on Wednesday, 18 Thursday, 19 and Friday, 20 September 2013. Program attached.

Kathy also reported on the National Rural Women's Coalition Conference, held in February in Canberra. She was also part of the NRWC group who met with Federal Ministers on June 18.

**Annual National ALGWA Networking Breakfast** was held on Monday 18 June, National Convention Centre, Canberra. A packed audience heard Dr David Headon, speak on the Centenary of Canberra History and key women in its history.

A strategic planning and training day will be held for the Executive at LGAQ House, Brisbane on 22 November, 2013. The following day will be the **AGM and General Meeting**, to be hosted by HerbertGeer.

## STATE BRANCH REPORTS

### Queensland

Kathy highlighted the upcoming Annual Conference being held in Whitsunday from 24-26 July 2013. Donna Neilson will continue managing the Mentoring Program.

### New South Wales

Work has commenced on the 2014 conference at Broken Hill, 22-24 March 2014 while 109 delegates attended the recent conference held in Gosford. The 2015 conference will be held in Wollongong. Congratulations were given to Jackie Greenow on receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division for her service to local government and the community, particularly to people with disabilities.

### Victoria

Victoria held its annual conference in Euroa in May and was pleased to have federal and state members in attendance. The Annual Bursary Award worth \$1,000 to a council officer was presented to Samantha Dureau at a lunch in November 2012.

This year the branch will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> birthday with events being held later in the year. The branch has also held more face-to-face Executive meetings leading to very productive meetings and great team work. The branch has produced a new brochure and secured merchandising products including a USB and a glasses cloth in ALGWA colours and logo. The Branch has also rejoined the Women's Participation in Local Government Coalition.

### Tasmania

The Tasmanian branch meets four times a year. In May they launched their *Women Can* election campaign. Although the local Government elections have now been delayed by a year, the branch has decided to continue the campaign. The mentoring program has also been updated.

### South Australia

The branch hosted the President's Brunch at the beginning of each year with the invited speaker talking about how to integrate refugees in to the community. The next AGM and mini conference has been arranged and will be held in Tea Tree Gully. The Independent Commission Against Corruption comes into effect on 1 September 2013 with a number of presentations organised dealing with such topics as election campaign gifts and sponsors.

The President also spoke about the recent passing of Joy Baluch, the former Mayor of Port Augusta.

### Northern Territory

Thanks were given to Alderman Helen Galton who will be standing down as secretary at the AGM will be held on Friday, 21 June 2013. The City of Darwin has received the Silver Award from 5050 Vision. In March ALGWA NT held a successful Breakfast with guest speaker Lia Finocchiaro, a new MLA in the Northern Territory Government. Lia Finocchiaro MLA is a young woman, keen volunteer, lawyer and a great role model.

## Western Australia

ALGWA WA highlighted amalgamations were underway with a map of areas soon to be released. This will also involve a review of salaries which will be undertaken by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.

### **Amendments to Constitution/Change to End of Financial Year**

It was agreed to change the financial year to calendar year - January to December at the upcoming AGM. Further investigation is to be undertaken in relation to how the change in financial year is managed for the financial statements.

### **Constitutional Recognition**

The Board agreed to support Constitutional Recognition and committed \$5,000 towards the ALGA "Yes" campaign. President Kathy Bensted presented the cheque to ALGA President Mayor Felicity-Ann Lewis at the 2013 ALGWA Networking Breakfast on June 17.

Victoria and Queensland branches will also be giving \$1,000 to their State Associations.

### **2015 Conference Update**

The ALGWA bi-annual conference will be held in the Barossa Valley from 25-27 March 2015, hosted by South Australia. A website has been established and will go live soon. This event will also host be the biannual elections for the new Executive for the National Board.